

House Republican Press Release

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Sen. Finch, Rep. Miller Laud Benefits of Biodiesel in Connecticut



Hartford- State Senator Bill Finch (D-Bridgeport) and Representative Lawrence Miller (R-Stratford) today praised the would-be benefits of biodiesel energy if the General Assembly votes to pass H.B. 5568, “An Act Concerning Biodiesel as a Class I Renewable Energy Source.” The bill stands in the legislature’s Energy &

Technology Committee, where it was considered at a public hearing last month.

“Biodiesel will clean our air, help save farmland, and make our state more energy efficient,” **Sen. Finch** explained. “This is an energy source which has proven benefits and its time Connecticut reaped the rewards of pursuing a healthier, more environmentally-sound energy source.”

“Under the 1998 electric industry restructuring act, power plants are required to use a percentage of renewable energy sources in their operations. If biodiesel is classified as a Class I renewable energy source, it will help Connecticut’s electricity generating companies using No. 2 and No. 4 oil achieve that goal and give them a strong incentive to use this environmentally-friendly alternative fuel at their facilities around the state,” **Rep. Miller** said.

Biodiesel fuel is a ‘home-grown’ product that can be derived from used cooking oil. It also can be extracted from soybeans, peanuts, vegetables and other organic materials. It is biodegradable and environmentally friendly and has been recognized as an alternative fuel by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Classifying biodiesel as a Class I renewable energy source would categorize it with wind, solar, water and other energy sources that are deemed safe to the environment.

“Biodiesel significantly reduces harmful emissions associated with diesel exhaust fumes,” **Rep. Miller** said. “Diesel exhaust emissions aggravate respiratory disorders and can cause some cancers to develop. In addition, diesel emissions have been linked to about 200 deaths per year in Connecticut. Anything we can do to encourage wider use of biodiesel will significantly improve air quality in our state and reduce the incidence of asthma, emphysema, lung cancer and other respiratory problems.”

“Can we afford NOT to promote biodiesel?” **Sen. Finch** asked.

